

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

July 10, 2018

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Thornberry and McCain and Ranking Members Smith and Reed:

As you work to finalize the fiscal year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, I urge you to include provisions vital to those who have served in the defense of our nation and live in the communities that I represent. Namely, I urge the inclusion of my amendment to allow the secretaries of each branch of the military to permit veterans to access certain fitness facilities not attached to a military base. Additionally, I request the inclusion of \$14.2 million in funding for a perimeter fence around the Air Force Research Lab Information Directorate in Rome, New York.

In my district, veterans and military retirees are no longer provided access to the Colosseum Gym, which was once connected to the Griffiss Air Base. My amendment authorizes the secretaries of each branch of military the ability to open fitness centers to military retirees and veterans at locations outside of a military base, which do not receive Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) funds. It is important that we continue to support veterans after they retire as they have sacrificed so much in service to our nation. That is why I am requesting that the provision in the House version of the FY 2019 NDAA that expands access for veterans to fitness centers be maintained in the final bill that comes out of the conference committee.

I would also urge you to retain the \$14.2 million in funding for a perimeter fence around Rome Lab. Currently, Rome Lab lacks a perimeter fence necessary to properly secure the facility and meet existing force protection requirements, as outlined by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Air Force. Rome Laboratory is the US Air Force "superlab" for command, control, and communications research and development and is responsible for planning and executing the USAF science and technology program. The highly sensitive nature of Rome Lab's research and development projects place the site at a heightened risk. The DoD first identified the lack of a fence as a security risk in 2008. This funding would significantly reduce the facility's

susceptibility to terrorist activities. The loss of this critically important funding would jeopardize national security.

The FY 2019 NDAA strengthens our military, bolsters missile defense, gives our troops a pay raise and provides resources for important advances in innovative technology to better combat 21<sup>st</sup> Century challenges. Fixing the policy that excludes veterans and military retirees from fitness facilities and securing the \$14.2 million in funding for a perimeter fence around Rome Lab are vital components that will assist individuals and servicemembers in my district and across the county.

I again urge you to maintain these provisions so that we can provide those who have served and continue to serve with the resources they desperately need. Thank you for your consideration of these requests and for your continued attention to our national defense.

Respectfully,

  
Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

CC: Members of National Defense Authorization Act Conference Committee